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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) SECURITY INFORMATION REPORTTOPIC Soviet Troops in Frankfurt/Oder

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EVALUATION

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DATE OF CONTENT

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REFERENCES

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REMARKS

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1. On 29 December 1951, the Artillerie Kaserne on August Bebel Strasse, Frankfurt/Oder (O 53/V 63), quartered about 800 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The day before, 200 troops were seen drilling with small arms at squad level, while 20 soldiers were engaged in artillery drill, and 12 soldiers engaged in driver training on trucks. On 29 December, 40 soldiers carrying rifles and practice targets were seen marching to the installation, while about 150 men drilled with small arms at squad level and 20 soldiers practiced with two artillery pieces in the barracks yard.

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2. On 29 December, the Muelow Kaserne at the intersection of Fuerstenwalderstrasse and Poststrasse quartered about 600 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with artillery and tank insignia. About 20 AT guns and 250 soldiers engaged in rifle drill were noticed in the barracks yard on 27 December. About 100 soldiers carrying rifles and practice targets left the installation toward Rosengarten on 29 December.

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3. On 29 December, only a few unarmed soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets were noticed in the northeastern section of the Eichhorn Kaserne on Luellroser Landstrasse. The buildings of the installation appeared to be vacant. Sentries also wore black-bordered red epaulets. The southwestern section of the Eichhorn Kaserne quartered about 400 troops who wore black-bordered red epaulets. About 50 unarmed soldiers assembling in the barracks yard, 20 soldiers drilling with rifles, and 25 soldiers receiving close-combat training were observed on 27 December. About 150 soldiers were seen falling in at the barracks yard, while about 60 men received rifle drill, on 29 December.

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4. On 29 December, the Hindenburg Kaserne on August Bebel Strasse was occupied by about 500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with tank insignia. The day before, tanks were identified in the billeting area. Tank and numerous soldiers were noticed at the garages of the installation on 29 December.

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5. Between 20 and 31 December, the Hoffbauer Kaserne on Hirnbaummuhlenweg served as transient billets for officers of all branches of service. Numerous officers with various branch-of-service insignia were seen going to and from the railroad station on trucks [redacted] 50X1-HUM
[redacted] on several days. The trucks observed during the aforementioned period of time were always the same. A repair shop unit of 50 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets were engaged in overhauling vehicle motors at the motor vehicle repair shop in the billeting area.
6. On 29 December, the Horn Kaserne on Mühner Claussee quartered about 600 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, almost exclusively with tank insignia. Four tanks [redacted] entered the installation on 29 December, while 120 troops were engaged in small-arms drill in the barracks yard, and about 100 soldiers received field training with rifles at the drill ground adjoining the billeting area. About 80 unarmed recruits received basic drill on 29 December. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
7. On 29 December, the Ziethen Kaserne on Kopernikus Strasse quartered from 600 to 700 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, largely with artillery or tank insignia. The day before, 60 soldiers were seen drilling with rifles and 15 soldiers, with submachine guns. Two canvas-covered tanks and 40 recruits drilling without arms were observed on 29 December. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
8. On 29 December, the komendatura on Puschkinstrasse was occupied by about 80 troops, about half wore black-bordered red epaulets and the others wore red-bordered black epaulets. The soldiers were seen engaged in physical training. [redacted] were seen at the building. On 50X1-HUM the occasion of Stalin's birthday, 21 December, no routine duties, reviews, or other ceremonies were noticed in the barracks installations at the Frankfurt/Oder military post. Almost all of the troops remained in their billets. Only a little traffic was noticed at the barracks gate.
9. On 15 December, the Ziethen Kaserne was occupied to capacity. Eight tanks and 32 soldiers practicing aiming with four 122-mm guns were seen in the billeting area on 10 December. In addition, there was an SP gun with JS-2 type tracks and suspensions and the numerical designation 115. [redacted] Seven 50X1-HUM tanks and 25 soldiers practicing with 2 x 122-mm guns were seen in the billeting area on 15 December, while other troops took out 2 x 37-mm AA guns drawn by trucks [redacted] to the drill ground west of Mühner Strasse, and began aiming practice. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
10. On 18 December, the Horn Kaserne was occupied to capacity. JS-2 tanks [redacted] with 1 lieutenant and 6 EM on each tank and one JSU-152 SP gun were seen leaving the billeting area on 15 December. JS-2 tanks [redacted] left the installation toward Markendorfer Platz on 18 December. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
11. On 21 December, the Buelow Kaserne was occupied to capacity by troops. Sixteen 76.2-mm guns were seen in an open shed on 10 December. A unit of 1 major and 32 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets and having two 82-mm mortars with them left the installation toward Markendorfer Platz on 15 December. About 450 troops, forming three units of about 150 men each,

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assembled in the barracks yard on 18 December. Two trucks [redacted] each carrying seven soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets and towing 76-mm model ZIS-3 field guns, left the installation toward Markendorfer Platz. They were followed by a unit of 7 officers and 60 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets and with 2 x 82-mm mortars of model 11 and 2 heavy machine guns. [redacted]

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12. On 14 December, the Artillerie Kaserne was occupied to capacity. The AA guns previously parked in the barracks yard were no longer seen. [redacted]

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13. On 21 December, the Hindenburg Kaserne was also occupied to capacity. About 750 troops, forming five units, assembled in the barracks yard on 19 December. About 40 soldiers practiced sub-caliber firing with the gun of a T-34 tank and an SU-122 SP gun on 19 and 20 December. About 200 troops, organized in six units of 150 men each, and a band of platoon strength assembled in the barracks yard on 21 December. At the same time, numerous other soldiers were seen standing in the windows of the various barracks buildings. [redacted]

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14. On 20 December, the Hindenburg Kaserne quartered about 2,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. No training whatever was noticed in the barracks yard. Some soldiers were seen servicing four tanks. [redacted]

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15. On 13 December, the Artillerie Kaserne was occupied to capacity by about 2,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. Sixteen soldiers practicing with 2 x 37-mm AA guns, 1 parking 76-mm artillery pieces, and 40 soldiers cleaning submachine guns were noticed in the barracks yard on 6 December. Four 37-mm AA guns and 1 x 76-mm artillery pieces were standing in the barracks yard on 13 December. Two of the 76-mm guns were being used for theoretical instruction for about 20 soldiers. Four more 76-mm artillery pieces were noticed through the open doors of garages. [redacted]

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16. On 8 December, the Muelow Kaserne was occupied to capacity by about 1,500 troops, about two thirds of whom wore red-bordered black epaulets and the rest, black-bordered red epaulets; and about 50 soldiers who wore black-bordered black epaulets with engineer insignia. Six 76-mm AT guns and 6 T-34/85 tanks, including one tank which was being repaired, were parked in the barracks yard; while another 76-mm AT gun and 3 x 57-mm AT guns were used for drill and instruction purposes by about 40 soldiers. [redacted]

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17. On 7 December, the Ziothen Kaserne quartered about 1,300 troops, about half of whom wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and tank insignia; half, black-bordered red epaulets; and a few, black-bordered black epaulets. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets. Truck [redacted] carrying 12 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets, and towing a 76-mm gun, 4 T-34/85 tanks and 3 SP guns were seen in the barracks yard. In addition, there

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were 2 JS-3 tanks and 4 JS-2 tanks. [] About 40 troops received theoretical instruction on four 122-mm artillery pieces, while 30 soldiers with black-bordered red epaulets drilled with two 120-mm mortars. Two 85-mm AA guns were parked near the athletic field. Sedan [] occupied by Colonel Kuzin (spelling?) (fnu) and driven by a soldier with red-bordered black epaulets and vehicles [] were [] at the Zietzen Kaserne.

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18. On 10 December, the Horn Kaserne was occupied to capacity by about 1,500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. Nine tanks, including two JS-3s, and 40 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and engaged in athletic activities were noticed in the barracks yard. Two of the nine tanks seemed to be T-34/85s. []

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19. On 10 December, the Eichhorn Kaserne was about 80 percent occupied. About 60 soldiers with black-bordered red epaulets and black-bordered black epaulets boarded trucks [] in the barracks area and departed toward Muellrose.

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20. On 11 December, the Hofbauer Kaserne was occupied almost to capacity by troops except for one building which was 30 percent occupied by about 100 uniformed women. About 200 officers of various ranks and branches of service, but wearing mostly tank and artillery insignia, were seen walking from the installation to the Eichhorn Kaserne on Muellroser Landstrasse at about 4 p.m. Two 120-mm mortars were in the barracks yard. []

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21. On 11 December, the Hindenburg Kaserne was occupied to capacity by about 1,200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with tank insignia. Eleven T-34 tanks, including one without main armament, were in the barracks yard, and about 40 soldiers received physical training. []

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22. A German in the Frankfurt/Oder area said that up to 60 tanks of various types had practiced at the Markendorf training ground every day. **

23. Between 5 and 6 p.m. on 12 December, 800 to 1,000 unarmed officers, NCOs and EM wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and carrying baggage arrived at the Frankfurt/Oder main railroad station by rail. Most of them were between 22 and 30 years old and wore rather old uniforms. The troops were picked up by trucks [] and departed toward Westkreuz.

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24. On 25 December, about 50 officers with ranks up to and including captain and 600 NCOs and EM wearing new uniforms with black-bordered red epaulets and carrying submachine guns arrived at the Frankfurt/Oder railroad station aboard a freight train from the direction of Kuestrin. The troops averaged 24 to 26 years of age and carried only a little baggage. After detraining, the troops left on trucks and buses []

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25. A passenger train of 20 cars, which left the Frankfurt/Oder main railroad station toward Guben (12 52/A 79) at 11 p.m. on 27 December, was occupied by about 500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery, and had an average age of 25 years. There were only a few officers and NCOs on the train.

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26. A freight train, which left the Frankfurt/Oder main railroad station toward Berlin at 6 p.m. on 3 June 1952, carried about 800 troops most of whom wore black-bordered black epaulets, and a few, no epaulets at all. There were

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only a few officers and NCOs with the troops. ***

[] Comment. The information confirms the []

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the occupation of the Artillerie Kaserne, the Eichhorn Kaserne, the Hofbauer Kaserne and the Hindenburg Kaserne. [] Regarding the following barracks installations, the present report indicates changes in the occupation:

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Budow Kaserne. A mechanized regiment of the 7th Gds Mecz Div, probably the 24th Gds Mecz Regt. This regiment was carried there prior to the summer training period.

Horn Kaserne. The 54th Gds Hvy Tank SP Regt of the 7th Gds Mecz Div. Source of paragraph 15 probably observed SU-100 SP guns on T-34 chassis rather than T-34 tanks.

Kiethen Kaserne. The unidentified, 22nd, Gds Hvy Arty Regt and a mechanized regiment of the 7th Gds Mecz Div, probably the 24th Gds Mecz Regt. The observation of JS-tanks and SP guns indicates the possibility that components of the 54th Gds Hvy Tank SP Regt are also quartered there. The installation perhaps contains a small tank repair shop which may account for the appearance of JS-tanks and SP guns. Colonel Kuzin (fnu) is known as chief of staff or headquarters commandant of the Hq 7th Gds Mecz Div in Fuerstenwalde.

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[] Comment. Markendorf is probably a major training ground for the Frankfurt/Oder military post. It is situated about 10 km southwest of the city.

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[] Comment. probably personnel on furlough or recruits who arrived behind schedule under the program for the replacement of discharges by recruits.

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